



Director of
Central
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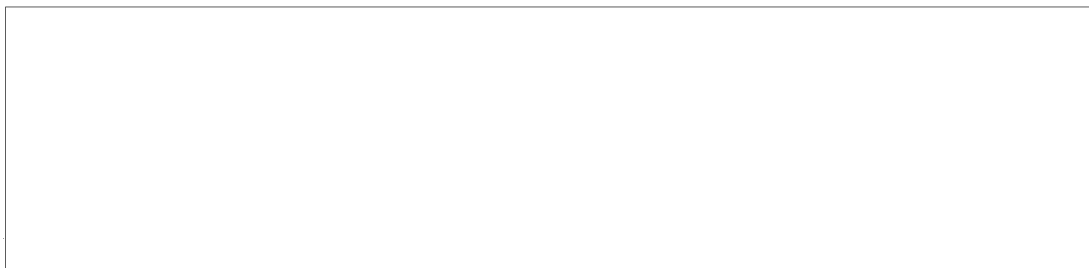
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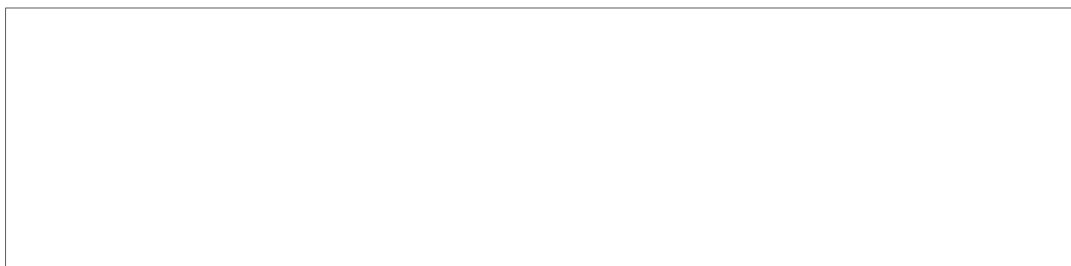
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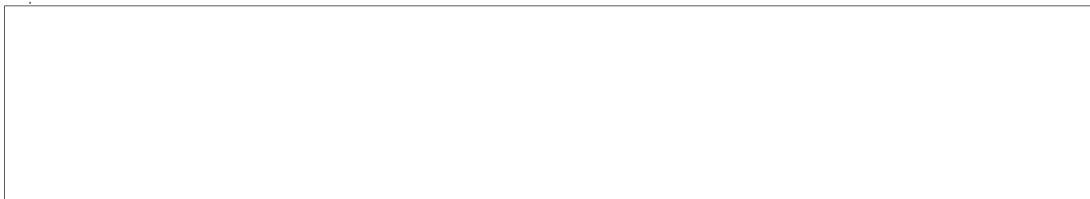
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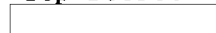
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⑤ CHINA - NORTH KOREA: Closer Relations

3 *China's implied endorsement of North Korean President Kim Il-song's succession plans confirms Beijing intends to secure its position as North Korea's primary ally.* [redacted]

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3 Chinese television this week, in an unprecedented program, showed Kim Chong-il greeting Deng Xiaoping and General Secretary Hu Yaobang on their arrival in P'yongyang last April--a clear endorsement of the younger Kim as his father's political successor. In the past, China's media had only rarely mentioned Kim Chong-il by name. [redacted]

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1 Since President Kim's visit in September, Beijing has sent several delegations to North Korea, including a group led by China's Trade Minister, who signed a five-year trade agreement to replace the previous one-year bilateral accords. Beijing also is increasing its criticism of the US military presence in South Korea. [redacted]

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3 Comment: The endorsement of the younger Kim improves political ties with North Korea. The Soviets, meanwhile, have been flirting with the South Koreans by allowing Soviet officials to attend several international conferences in Seoul. [redacted]

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2 Increased political attention is the best approach available to Beijing to increase its influence with P'yongyang. China cannot provide the economic assistance or advanced military technology North Korea wants from the USSR. [redacted]

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(10) USSR-BULGARIA: Tougher Trade Terms Proposed

A Bulgarian official has told the US Embassy most of Bulgaria's surplus grain crop will go to the USSR in compensation for unspecified imports. The Embassy speculates Moscow is insisting the grain be delivered as partial payment for continued Soviet oil deliveries at the current level. [REDACTED]

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1/2 Comment: There were indications last summer the USSR might cut back on oil deliveries to Bulgaria, as it has to several other East European countries. The Soviets may have settled, at least temporarily, for a much smaller reduction of their hard currency subsidy to Bulgaria. A cutback in oil deliveries comparable to those imposed elsewhere would have netted the USSR about \$130 million if the oil were sold on the world market. Under a compensation arrangement, Bulgarian grain deliveries to the USSR probably would increase by some 300,000 tons, worth about \$45 million on the world market. [REDACTED]

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